

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

1875 Century Boulevard Atlanta, Georgia 30345

In Reply Refer To: FWS/R4/RF/PL

MAY 08 2014

To: Representatives of Federal, State, County, and Local Governments; Conservation Organizations; Citizens' Groups; Landowners; and Others

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), Southeast Region, requests comments on an additional management alternative proposed for a revised Wapanocca National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) and Environmental Assessment (EA), we are providing this document to you for your review and comment by May 27, 2014.

In December 2013, the Service released a Draft Revised CCP and EA for public comment. In addition to the public comments received at the public meeting in Turrell, Arkansas, on December 9, 2013, the Service received 13 comments from private individuals, non-governmental organizations, and agencies during this comment period. In response to these comments, the Service has created a third management alternative (Alternative C), which it proposes as the new recommended action for Wapanocca National Wildlife Refuge management. This alternative maintains the current farming acreage through 2016, reduces the annual farming area from 498 acres to 300 acres in 2017, increases the annually cultivated impoundment area to 75 acres, and restores 363 acres of bottomland hardwood forest.

Copies of the Draft Revised CCP and EA are available at Wapanocca National Wildlife Refuge Headquarters Office and

www.fws.gov/southeast/planning/CCP/WapanoccaDraftSinglePageDocument.html. Sections of the document that have been recently revised are indicated in the text. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Bill Peterson, Refuge Manager, at 870/343-2595.

If you have comments on the new Draft CCP and EA they may be provided by email to tina_chouinard@fws.gov and include "Wapanocca NWR" in the subject line, or by mail to Tina Chouinard, Natural Resource Planner, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 49 Plainsbrook Place, Jackson, Tennessee 38305, or fax to 731/664-1566.

Thank you for your continued support and interest in our fish and wildlife conservation efforts.

Sincerely yours,

David Viker

Regional Chief

Enclosure